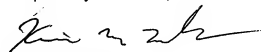




On December 8, 2006, the Examiner cited Bacon et al (United States Patent No. 4,466,864, hereafter *Bacon*) supporting the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1 and 9. *Bacon* was not a reference of record at the time. The Examiner did not indicate how *Bacon* is applied in the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1 and 9.

No agreement was reached on the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Keith M. Tackett  
Registration No. 32,008  
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.  
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056  
Telephone: (713) 623-4844  
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846  
Attorney for Applicant(s)